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Duxbury Clipper

# Duxbury Police Department again awarded accreditation

In spite of tight budgets and a station that is badly in need of replacement, the Duxbury Police Department has retained its accredited status following its first reassessment.

A team of Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission assessors was present at the Duxbury Police Department June 22-24 to evaluate the department for renewal of its accreditation. Detective Sergeant Robert Fitzsimmons of the MBTA Police Department and Sergeant James Rosato of the Orleans Police Department assisted assessment team leader Lt. John Lundborn of the Truro Police Department. The accreditation process was coordinated and directed by MPAC Executive Director Donna Taylor Mooers acting on behalf of the Commission Board of Directors.

Accreditation is a self-initiated evaluation process by which police departments strive to meet and maintain standards that have been established for the profession, by the profession. These carefully selected standards reflect critical areas of police management, operations, and technical support activities. They cover areas such as policy development, emergency response planning, training, communications, property and evidence handling, use of force, vehicular pursuit, prisoner transpor-

tation, and prisoner holding facilities. The program not only sets standards for the law enforcement profession, but also for the delivery of police services to citizens of the commonwealth.

"Achieving Accreditation from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission is considered a very significant accomplishment, and is a recognition that is highly regarded by the law enforcement community," said Donna Taylor Mooers, the Commission's Executive Director.

The assessment team found the department to be in compliance with all applicable mandatory standards for Accreditation and exceeded the optional standards required; because of this the Duxbury Police Department will retain the Commission's highest award: Accreditation.

"Going through the process initially requires intense self-scrutiny, and ultimately provides a quality assurance review of the agency," said Mooers.

The Commission offers two program awards: Certification and Accreditation, with Accreditation being the higher of the two. Accreditation has been granted for a period of three years. Participation in the program is strictly voluntary.

Chief DeLuca appointed Lt. Susan James to serve as

the department's accreditation manager in 1999. In 2005 the department received "Certification" status, the first level of achievement from the Commission. In 2006 the department passed its initial accreditation assessment and became the 23rd town in the Commonwealth to be awarded "accredited" status. Duxbury is still the only town on the South Shore to be accredited.